



EMBAJADA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA  
SANTIAGO, CHILE



# Investing in Chile: An American Perspective

Ambassador Paul Simons

# WHY CHILE?

## ➤ Stable democratic government

- Strong institutions
- Low corruption/rule of law
- Policy continuity



## ➤ Prudent economic management

- Sound fiscal policy/low debt
- 5% annual growth since return of democracy in 1990
- Lowest risk premiums in Latin America/A+ rating
- Lowest poverty rate in Latin America (13%)

## ➤ Attractive business climate

- Well-developed infrastructure (airports/roads/internet)
- Contract sanctity/property rights



# U.S./Chile Bilateral Free Trade Agreement

Effective January 2004

- Two way trade in 2008: \$22 billion
- U.S. exports: machinery, equipment
- Chilean exports: copper, fruits, seafood
- Trade increased by 250% in first 5 years
- Chile fourth largest trading partner in hemisphere
- FTA anchors investment, intellectual property, environment, labor protection





# Foreign Investment Welcome



- Direct foreign investment 8% of GDP – highest per capita in Latin America
- All segments of energy sector in private hands since mid 1980's:
  - Generation (Spain/Italy/U.S./Norway/Chile)
  - Transmission (Canada)
  - Distribution (Spain/Italy/Chile)
- World class mining industry client base (Australia/Canada/Japan/Chile/U.S.)



# U.S. Chile Energy Cooperation

- "Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas", announced by President Obama in Trinidad on April 18, 2009.
- Chile's contributions:
  - Renewable Energy Research Center
  - Solar pilot projects: CSP and PV
- Strong institutional contacts between Chile and
  - Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory
  - National Renewable Energy Laboratory
  - U.S. Department of Energy
  - California Energy Commission
- Chile/California Partnership (6/08) underpins cooperation.





# U.S. Embassy Support

- Top notch U.S. Commercial Service team with energy and mining sector expertise.

[www.buyusa.gov/chile/en](http://www.buyusa.gov/chile/en)

- Strongest American Chamber of Commerce in Latin America. [www.amchamchile.cl](http://www.amchamchile.cl)

- Institutional linkages with U.S. Trade and Development Agency, University of California system, and state government.

# Ambassador's personal commitment to renewable energy...





“With a new Energy Climate Partnership of the Americas, we will harness the progress being made ... by Chile’s investments in solar power.”



President Barack Obama  
Trinidad  
April 19, 2009